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ILLUSTRATED BY: NIKKI BERNADEZ

"Death or Glory"

Written by:
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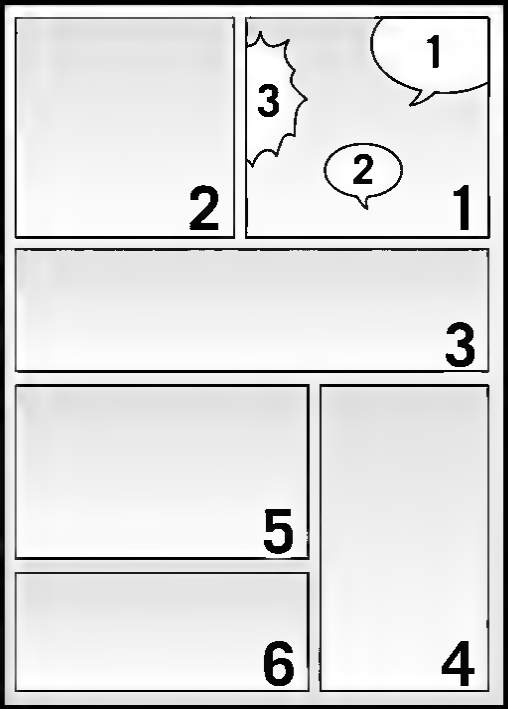
Panda Loft Studios



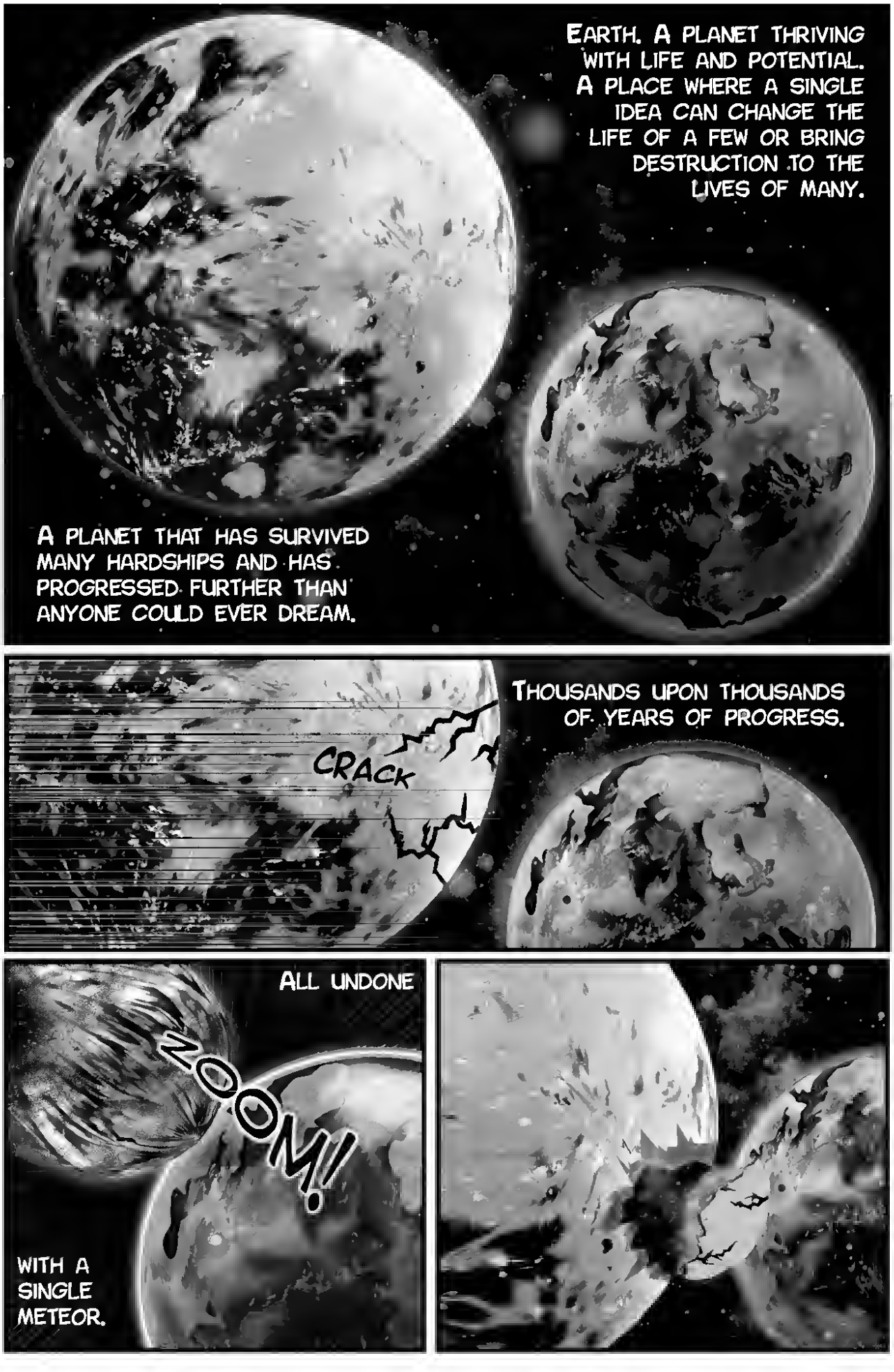
How to Read Manga

Manga reads from right to left

1. Start in the upper-right corner of the upper-right panel. Read the panel from right to left.

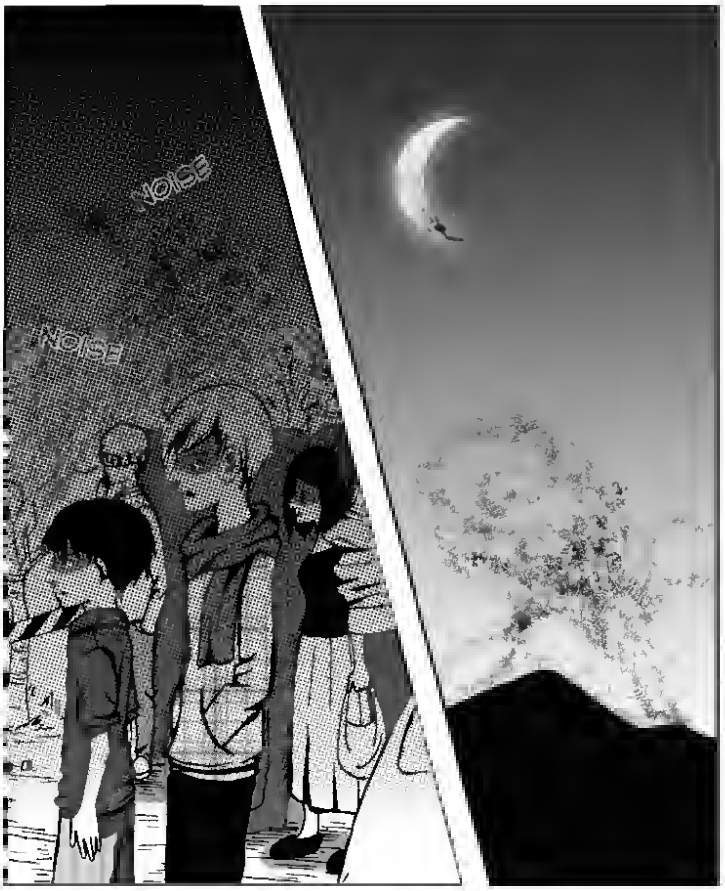
2. Repeat the process in the panel to the immediate left.

3. After the final panel on the left move down the page and repeat starting with the first right panel


EARTH. A PLANET THRIVING WITH LIFE AND POTENTIAL. A PLACE WHERE A SINGLE IDEA CAN CHANGE THE LIFE OF A FEW OR BRING DESTRUCTION TO THE LIVES OF MANY.
A PLANET THAT HAS SURVIVED MANY HARDSHIPS AND HAS PROGRESSED FURTHER THAN ANYONE COULD EVER DREAM.
CRACK
THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF PROGRESS.
ALL UNDONE
ZOOM!!
WITH A SINGLE METEOR.

CHIRP
CHIRP
ZOOM!
!!
KA
BOOM!

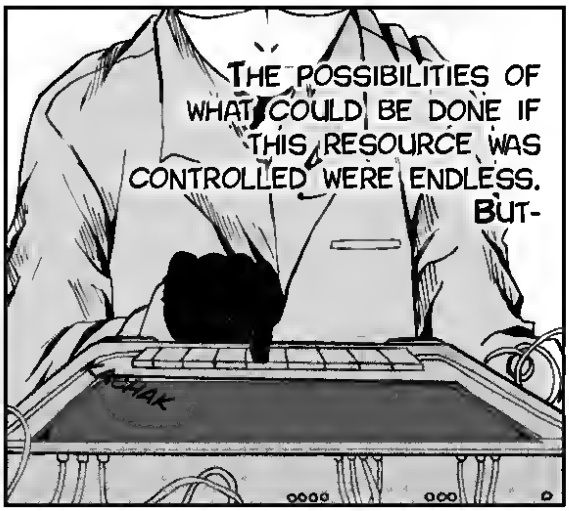
POLICE
POL


NOISE
NOISE

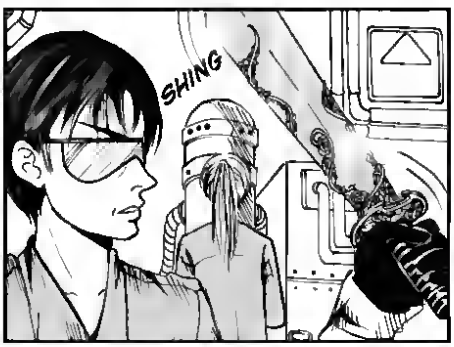
SHOCK
THAT DAY MARKED THE DISCOVERY OF AN ALIEN RESOURCE SOON TO BE KNOWN AS, "TERRAGEL".

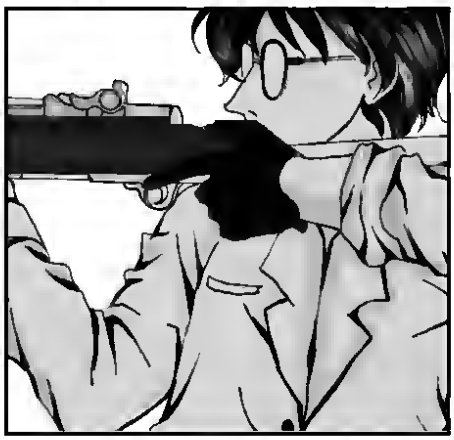
It was a completely unknown resource with irregular properties. It could be used as a solid, liquid, or gas.
It contained secondary properties resembling the elements of fire, water, electricity, and even darkness and light.

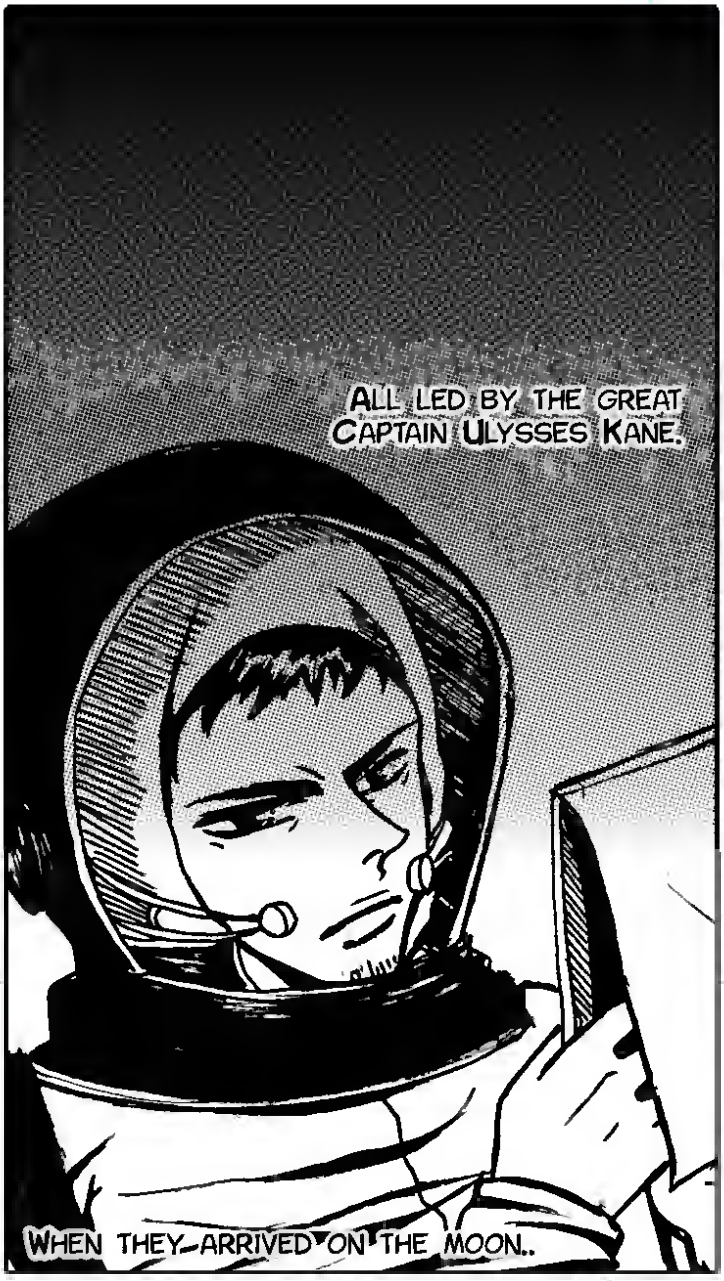
Power was mankind's only solution.

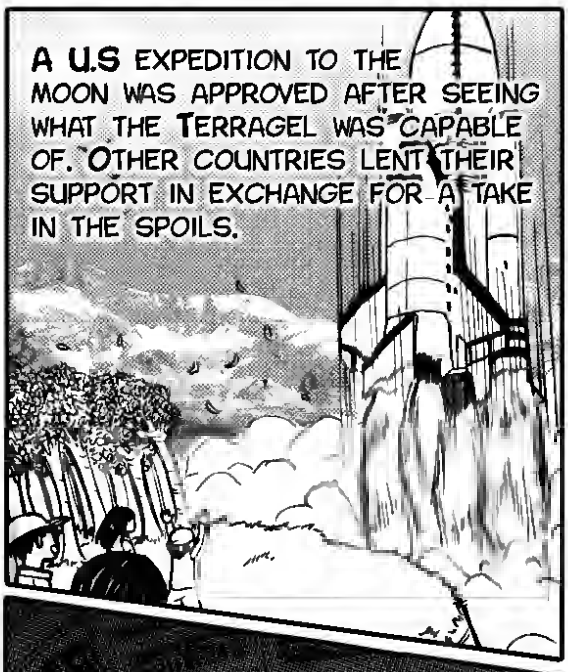

The possibilities of what could be done if this resource was controlled were endless. But-

Other weapons were created and these untamed powerful weapons became known as the first generation. No one knows where they are now.
stare...

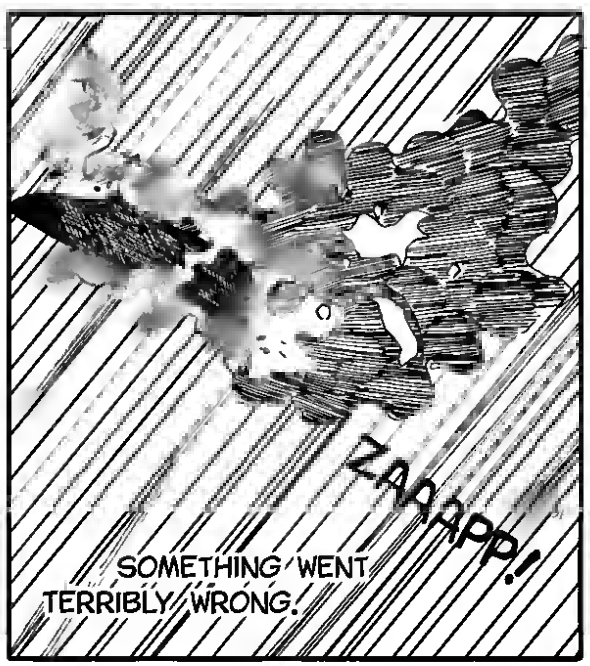

shing



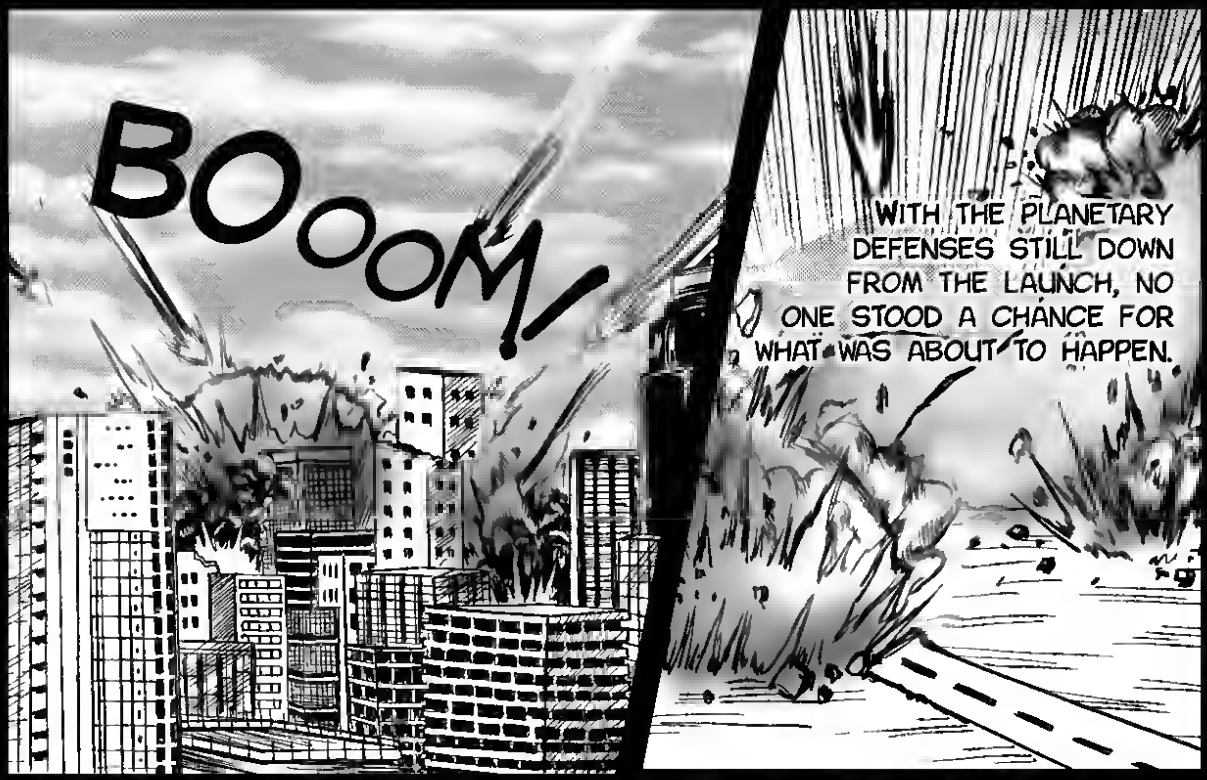

ALL LED BY THE GREAT CAPTAIN ULYSSES KANE.
WHEN THEY ARRIVED ON THE MOON..


A U.S EXPEDITION TO THE MOON WAS APPROVED AFTER SEEING WHAT THE TERRAGEL WAS CAPABLE OF. OTHER COUNTRIES LENT THEIR SUPPORT IN EXCHANGE FOR A TAKE IN THE SPOILS.

THERE WERE 7 PEOPLE ABOARD THE SHUTTLE THAT DAY.


ZAAPP!
SOMETHING WENT TERRIBLY WRONG!

BOOOM!



AFTER ALMOST LOSING 70% OF THE WORLD POPULATION, THE SURVIVING MEMBERS OF THE SUBGROUP OF **NASA** KNOWN AS **NAST**, MANAGED TO SEND UP ANOTHER HUBSPHERE TO FIX THE DEFENSE SYSTEM DURING A BRIEF PAUSE IN THE DESTRUCTION.

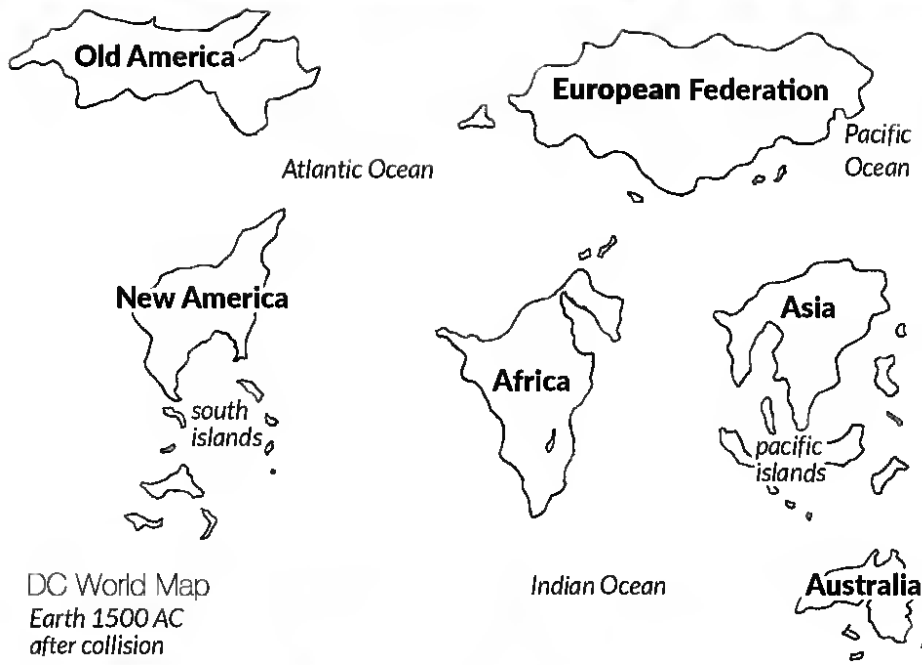
戦

(war)

WEAPONS.

THE YEARS FOLLOWING WERE HORRIBLE. AS RESOURCES RAN OUT, SURVIVING NATIONS BEGAN TO HARVEST THE TERRAGEL FROM THE FRAGMENTS OF THE MOON'S SURFACE THAT HAD LANDED.

AS THAT BEGAN TO RUN OUT, PEOPLE DEMANDED SOMETHING ELSE.



DC World Map
Earth 1500 AC
after collision

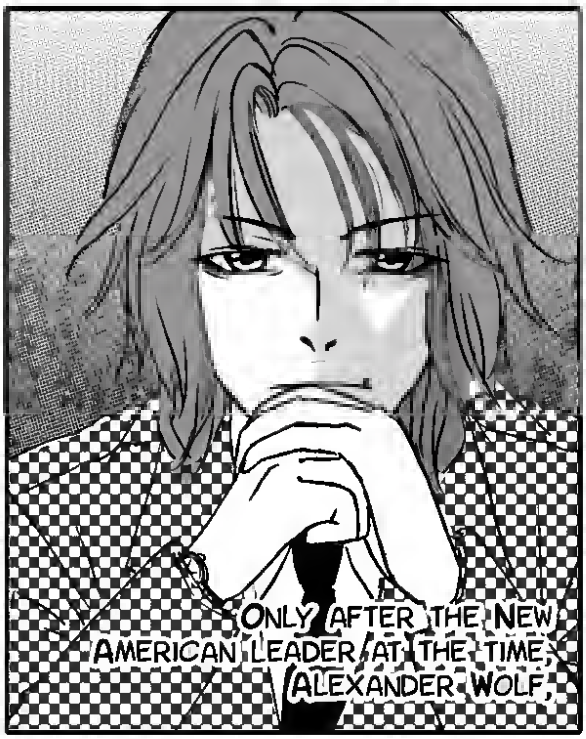
NEW WORLD POWERS ROSE. TO THE WEST, THE NATION OF NEW AMERICA. TO THE SOUTH, THE REFORMED NATION OF AFRICA.

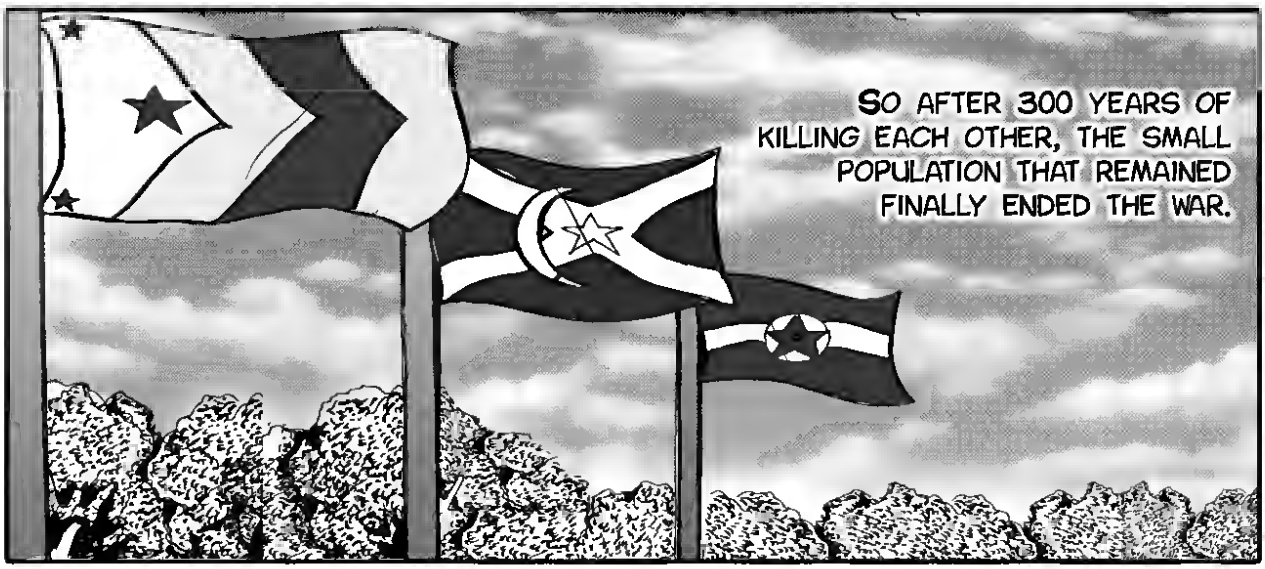
THE EAST WAS HELD DOWN BY THE POWERFUL NATION OF ASIA. THESE 3 SUPER POWERS CONTROLLED MOST OF THE RESOURCES AND HAD THE STRONGEST FORCES. THE OTHER NATIONS FELL INLINE WITH THEM.

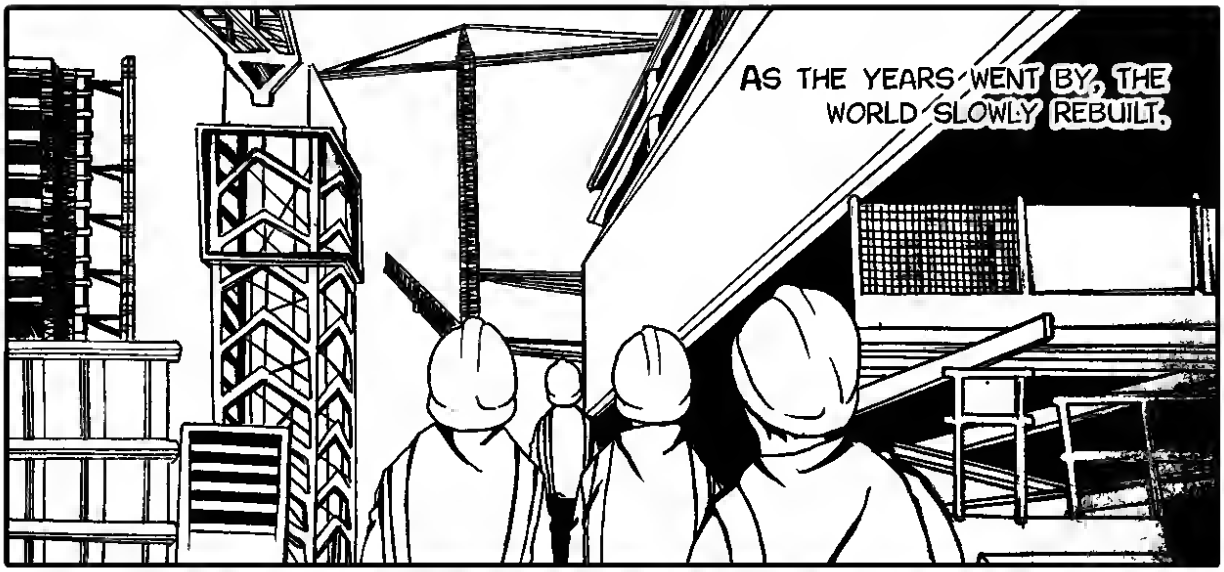
AND SO BEGAN 300 YEARS OF VIOLENCE AND BLOODSHED.

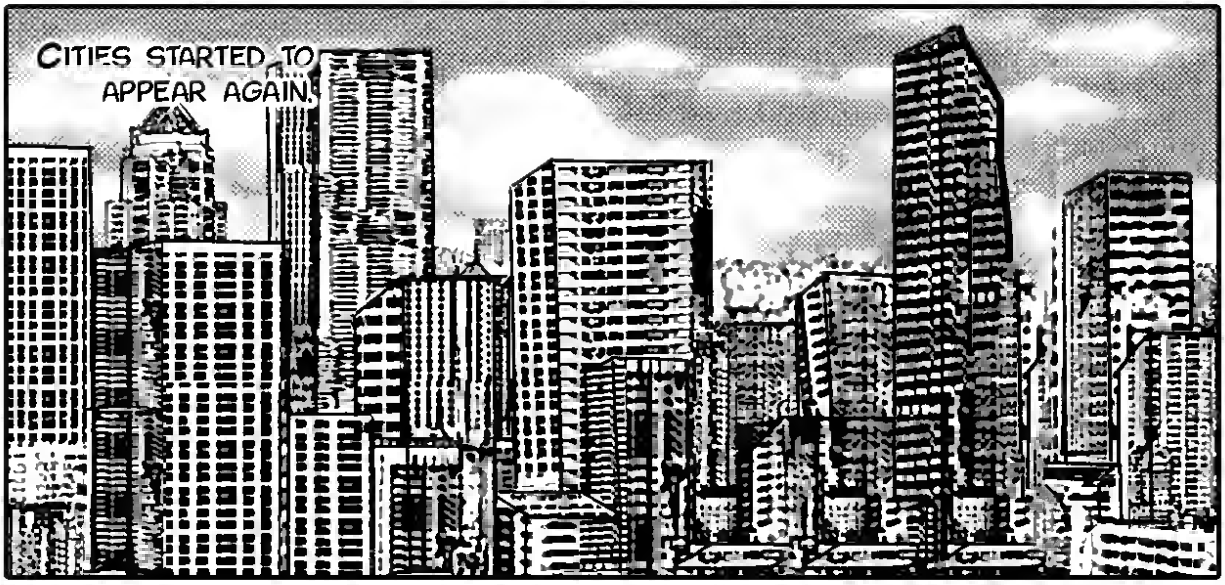
PEOPLE SOON DISCOVERED THAT BY USING THE TERRAGEL ON THEIR BODIES IT AMPLIFIED THEIR STRENGTH INCREDIBLY AND GAVE THEM POWERFUL ABILITIES. BUT THE DRAWBACKS WOULD NOT TOO LONG AFTER LEAVE THEM DRAINED OR EVEN DEAD.

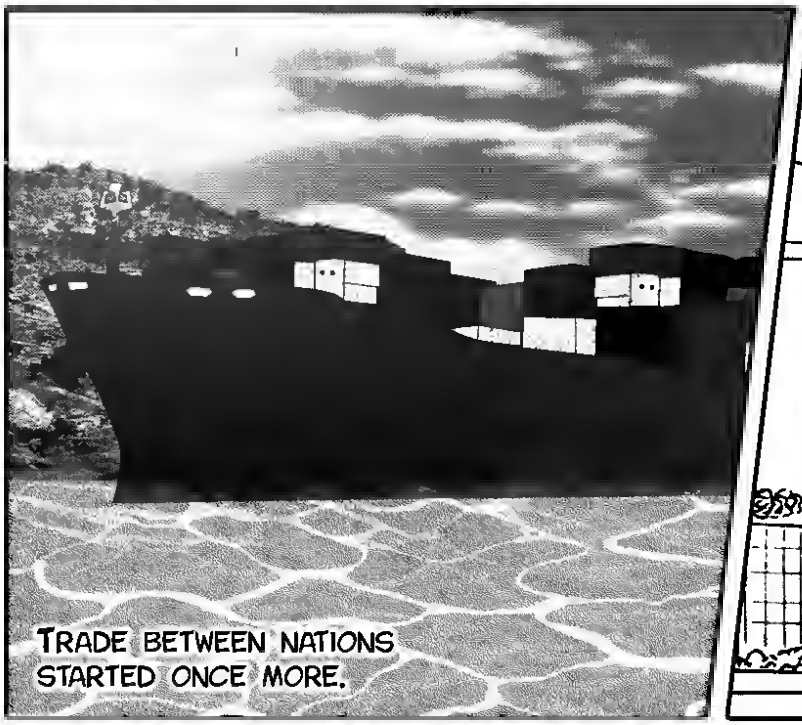
STARTED TALKS OF PEACE BETWEEN THE NATIONS WAS A TRUCE FINALLY REACHED.

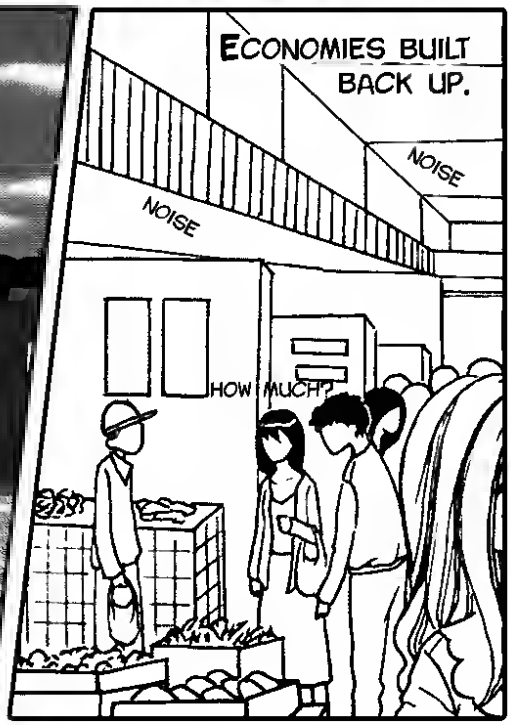

ONLY AFTER THE NEW AMERICAN LEADER AT THE TIME, ALEXANDER WOLF,

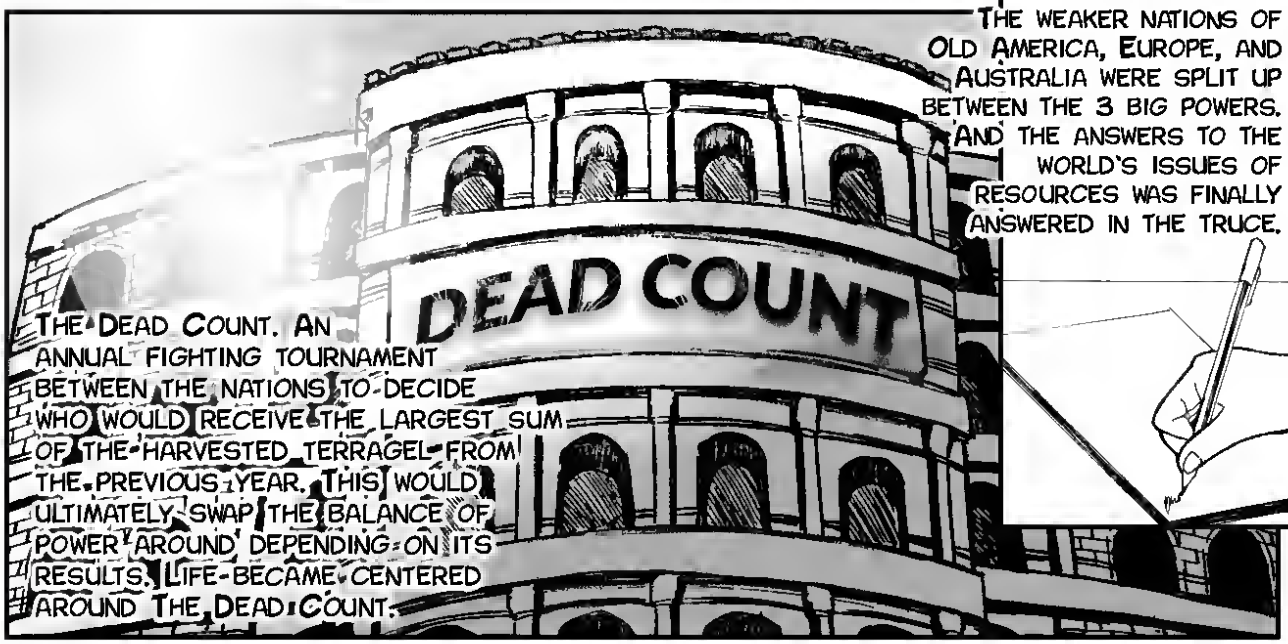

SO AFTER 300 YEARS OF KILLING EACH OTHER, THE SMALL POPULATION THAT REMAINED FINALLY ENDED THE WAR.

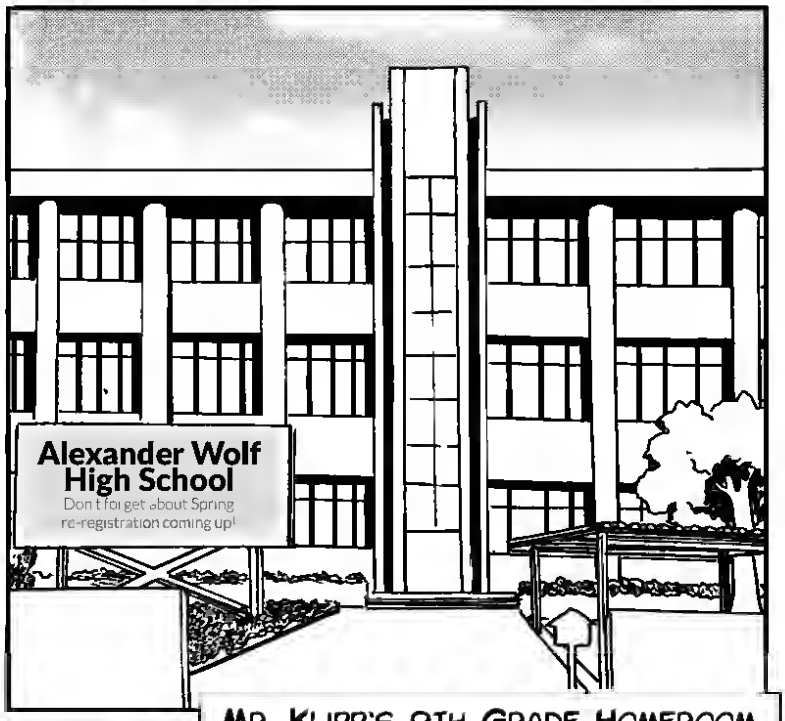

AS THE YEARS WENT BY, THE WORLD SLOWLY REBUILT.


CITIES STARTED TO APPEAR AGAIN.

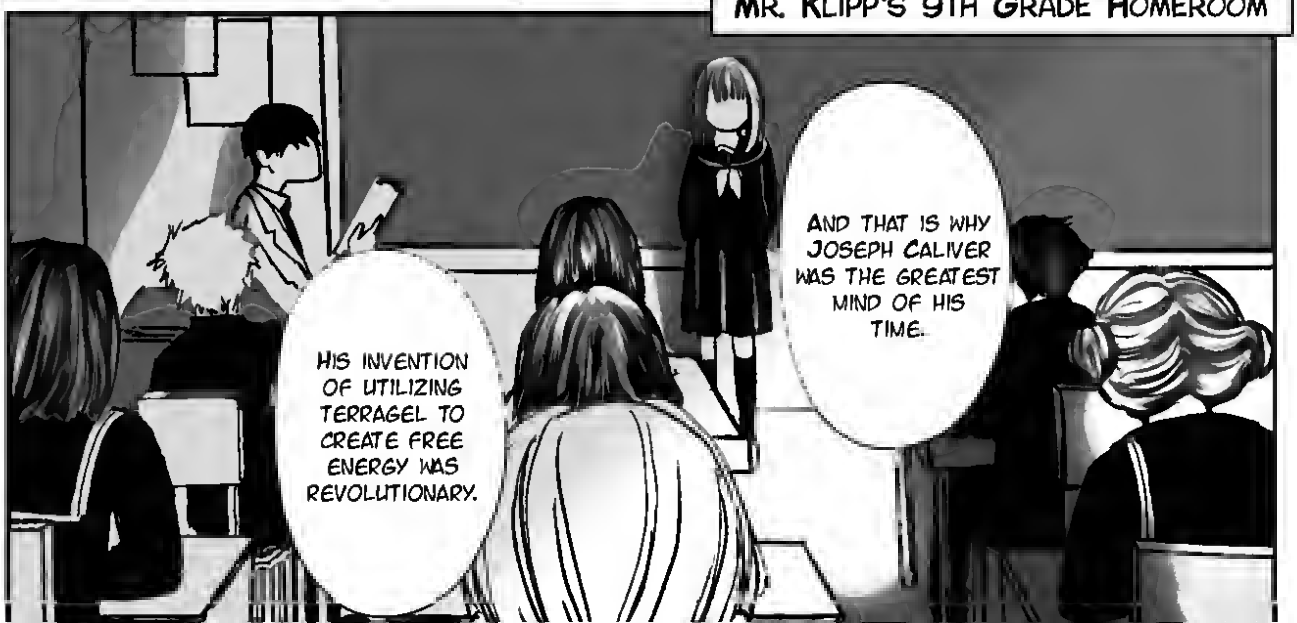

TRADE BETWEEN NATIONS STARTED ONCE MORE.


ECONOMIES BUILT BACK UP.
NOISE
NOISE
HOW MUCH?


DEAD COUNT
THE DEAD COUNT. AN ANNUAL FIGHTING TOURNAMENT BETWEEN THE NATIONS TO DECIDE WHO WOULD RECEIVE THE LARGEST SUM OF THE HARVESTED TERRAGEL FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR. THIS WOULD ULTIMATELY SWAP THE BALANCE OF POWER AROUND DEPENDING ON ITS RESULTS. LIFE BECAME CENTERED AROUND THE DEAD COUNT.
THE WEAKER NATIONS OF OLD AMERICA, EUROPE, AND AUSTRALIA WERE SPLIT UP BETWEEN THE 3 BIG POWERS. AND THE ANSWERS TO THE WORLD'S ISSUES OF RESOURCES WAS FINALLY ANSWERED IN THE TRUCE.



MR. KLIPP'S 9TH GRADE HOMEROOM


HIS INVENTION OF UTILIZING TERRAGEL TO CREATE FREE ENERGY WAS REVOLUTIONARY.
AND THAT IS WHY JOSEPH CALIVER WAS THE GREATEST MIND OF HIS TIME.

VERY WELL DONE. YOU MAY TAKE YOUR SEAT.
AS A CITIZEN OF NEW AMERICA, I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE CALIVER'S MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS.
KAI SUZUKI, 14
DUN DUN
NEXT IS...
SCRIBBLE
KAI.
ALRIGHT, FINALLY!
STAND

WHO THE HELL IS BROCK ROSS?!
SHOCK
BAM!
I DID MY PAPER ON BROCK ROSS. HE-
TCHE
NO ONE GIVES A CRAP ABOUT SOME OLD AMERICAN NOBODY.
ONE OF THE GREATEST LEGENDS OF OLD AMERICA.
PISSED
THAT'S ENOUGH CONNOR.
ANGRY
SIT DOWN.
MR. KLIPP, HE ALWAYS DOES THIS. HE ALWAYS DOES HIS REPORTS ON SOMEONE FROM OLD AMERICA. I DON'T THINK IT'S FAIR WHEN THE REST OF US HAVE TO DO ACTUAL WORK ON PEOPLE THAT MATTER.
SHOUT
GRIT

THINKING DOES NOT SUIT YOU.
I THINK YOU SHOULD WATCH YOUR MOUTH.
YOU CAN COMPLAIN WHEN YOUR STOOGES STOP DOING YOUR WORK FOR YOU.
I SAID THAT IS ENOUGH YOU TWO!
PISSED
GLARE
GLARE
CONTINUE, KAI.
...
KAI, FINISH YOUR REPORT.
...
GULP

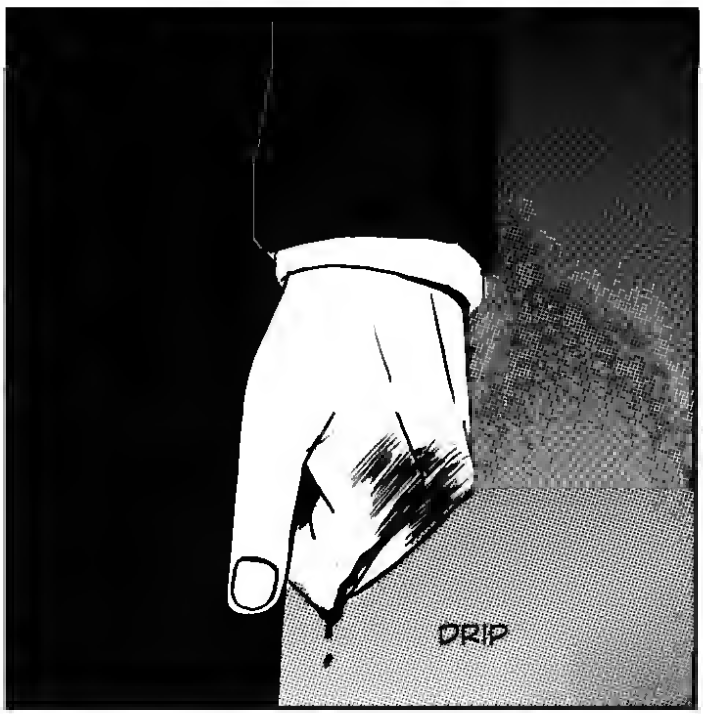
PFFT!
WHAT?!
BROCK ROSS...WAS THE LAST CHAMPION FROM OLD AMERICA TO GO ON TO WIN THE NATIONAL TOURNAMENT KNOWN AS THE DEAD COUNT. SHORTLY AFTER... HE WAS MYSTERIOUSLY CHARGED FOR FALSE CRIMES WHICH SPARKED THE START OF A POSSIBLE NEW AMERICA CONSPIRACY.
POW!
YOU PEOPLE ARE LIKE A BROKEN RECORD. LIKE HOW IT IS ALWAYS OUR FAULT YOU PEOPLE NEVER GET ANYWHERE IN LIFE.
MAYBE-
WHY CAN'T YOU PEOPLE
BE CIVILIZED!
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?!
THEY ARE ALL LIKE THAT! I DON'T KNOW WHY WE LET THEM IN OUR SCHOOLS!

CRACK
TSK
GRAB
I HATE GOING TO SCHOOL HERE...
HOMEROOM IS NOT OVER YET.
THEN WHY ARE YOU OUT HERE?
NOAH BETRAM, 15

KAI-

IT'S JUST TO TAKE MY MEDICATION.
...

DON'T.


DRIP

GLARE
THEN WHY STOOP TO THEIR LEVEL?
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS FIGHT?
BECAUSE THEY ARE STUPID.
NOISE
NOISE
YOU MIGHT WANT TO GET TO THE NURSE SO YOU DON'T MISS LUNCH.
SEE YOU THERE?
YOU BET.
DING!
DING!
DING!
BECAUSE I AM SICK OF BEING LOOKED DOWN ON JUST BECAUSE WE ARE FROM OLD AMERICA.
THANK YOU. BUT, WE TRY NOT TO LET OUR PAST VICTORIES DICTATE OUR FUTURE. WE GO INTO EACH MATCH AS IF IT IS THE FINAL ROUND
NOISE
NOISE
SO CAPTAIN VASQUEZ, THE FINALS ARE NOTHING NEW FOR YOU AND YOUR TEAM. BY THE WAY, LAST YEAR'S VICTORY WAS ABSOLUTELY AMAZING.
20 MINUTES LATER...

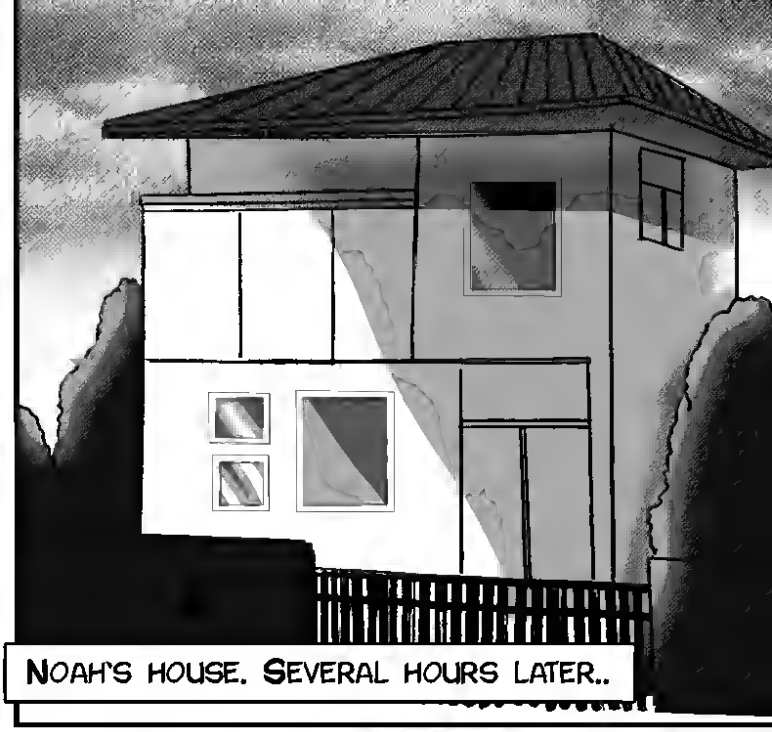
PUNCH
PUNCH
PUNCH
HUFF
HUFF
TIGHT
WHERE'S ALL THAT TALK NOW, SUZUKI?
HUFF
HUFF
FUCK
HUFF
HUFF

AARGH!
BAM
THAT LOOK..
SEE. THAT WASN'T SO HARD NOW WAS IT? THIS IS HOW IT SHOULD BE

GLARE
ALWAYS!
PISSED
YOU ALWAYS HAVE THAT DAMN LOOK.
!!

I THINK IT DOES.
THIS DOESN'T CONCERN YOU, SICKY.
DON'T MAKE ME PUT THE OTHER FOOT IN THE GRAVE FOR YOU.
NOAH-LET ME HANDLE THIS. I CAN TAKE HIM!
YEAH?
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
YOU..
NOAH, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
KAI!
GAH-!

NOAH!
COUGH!
COUGH!
COUGH!
COUGH!
TCHE
STEP
STEP
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
URGH...


NOAH'S HOUSE. SEVERAL HOURS LATER..

THE TERRAFLU REALLY IS NO JOKE...ESPECIALLY HERE IN OLD AMERICA.

I HOPED YOU WOULD GET OVER THIS AFTER SO MANY YEARS...

SIGH...
AGAIN, I AM STANDING HERE WITH THE NEW DEAD COUNT CHAMPIONS! AFTER LOSING TO NEW AMERICA AND ASIA FOR THE PAST HALF DECADE, CAPTAIN CONWAY JALLOH HAS SNATCHED A CLINCHING VICTORY FOR AFRICA!
Africa Takes Crown!
CLICK

WELL... ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT WAS MY SISTER AT HOME WAITING TO SEE ME WIN. KNOWING THAT, I KEPT FINDING THE EXTRA PUSH TO KEEP STANDING.
NEW AMERICA... LOST? I DON'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME THEY'VE LOST IN A FINALS. WHO'S THIS CONWAY GUY EXACTLY?
CONWAY, THAT WAS A HELL OF A FINAL SHOWDOWN WITH CAPTAIN VASQUEZ. DID YOU HAVE A STRATEGY GOING INTO THIS?
GASP
BREAKING NEWS! WE INTERRUPT THE CURRENT BROADCAST TO BRING YOU AN UPDATE ON THE EXPLOSION OF THE NEW AMERICA GATHERING CARRIER, CHARLIE 9.
STRETCH
IT SEEMS THERE WAS A TRAJECTORY ERROR WHILE THE CARRIER WAS ON ONE OF IT'S REGULAR GATHERING ROUTES OF GATHERING TERRAGEL IN THE EARTH'S OUTER-SPHERE.
W-WHAT WAS THAT-?

TREMBLE
NO..NO..
NO..
TREMBLE
THE CARRIER ACCIDENTALLY STRAYED INTO A RED ZONE, FINDING IT'S WAY INTO THE PATH OF A METEOR STORM.
THERE...WERE NO SURVIVORS UNFORTUNATELY.
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
KAI..
ISN'T THAT...
D-DAD...
END.